



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 21, 1996

Ms. Roxann Pais
Assistant City Attorney
Criminal Law and Police Division
City of Dallas
Municipal Building
Dallas, Texas 75201

OR96-2164

Dear Ms. Pais:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 102718.

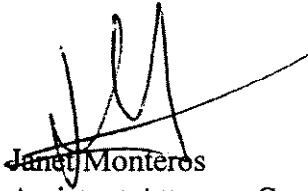
The City of Dallas (the "city") received an open records request for all police records pertaining to a particular prosecution report. You seek to withhold the requested information pursuant to section 552.108 of the Government Code.

Section 552.108 excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime" and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution." Gov't Code § 552.108; see *Holmes v. Morales*, 924 S.W.2d 920 (Tex. 1996). Because the records at issue come within the purview of section 552.108, we conclude that most of the information at issue may be withheld under this section.

We note, however, that information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ ref'd n.r.e. per curiam, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). Thus, the city must release the types of information that are considered to be "front page offense report information," even if this information is not actually located on the front page of the offense report. Although section 552.108 authorizes the city to withhold the remaining information from disclosure, you may choose to release all or part of the information at issue that is not otherwise confidential by law. See Gov't Code § 552.007.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Monteros', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Janet Monteros
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JIM/RWP/rho

Ref.: ID# 102718

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Sydney Stuart
3050 Airhaven Street
Dallas, Texas 75229
(w/o enclosures)